




STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

J. Eric Boyette  
SECRETARY

June 4, 2021

Memorandum To: External Scoping Attendees

From: McCray Coates, PE  
Division Project Manager 

SUBJECT: External Scoping Meeting  
Proposed New I-26 Interchange (Future Exit 35), Asheville, Buncombe County  
NCDOT STIP HE-0001

Division 13 is starting the project development, environmental and engineering studies for the proposed new interchange with I-26 (future exit 35) to access the Pratt & Whitney Manufacturing Center (currently under construction) in Buncombe County. This proposed project includes the construction of a 0.5-1-mile two-lane roadway tie. This proposed roadway tie would connect to the two-lane roadway currently under construction by the private developer which includes a new bridge over the French Broad River and intersects NC 191/Brevard Road.

STIP HE-0001 is not included in the current NCDOT 2020-2029 STIP; however, the Department is in the process of having this project programmed. Right of way acquisition and construction let are targeted for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022 and 2023, respectively. Federal funds will be used for this project and a Type III Categorical Exclusion is anticipated.

NCDOT-Division 13 will host a one and one-half hour External Scoping Meeting at **8:30 AM** on Wednesday, **June 16, 2021**. This meeting will be held remotely via a web conference.

If you have any questions about the project or the meeting please contact McCray Coates, PE, Division Project Manager, at 828-250-3000 or by email at [hmcoates@ncdot.gov](mailto:hmcoates@ncdot.gov). Please include **HE-0001** in all correspondence and comments.

Attachments

- Project Data Sheets
- Project Mapping

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Location  
55 ORANGE STREET  
ASHEVILLE, NC 28801

## Project Data Sheets

<u>TIP No.:</u>	HE-0001	<u>Sent Date:</u>	June 4, 2021
<u>WBS No.:</u>	TBD	<u>Revision Date:</u>	
<u>Federal Aid No.:</u>	TBD	<u>Meeting Date:</u>	TBD
<u>Division:</u>	13		
<u>County:</u>	Buncombe		

Project Description: Construct new interchange on I-26 (Exit 35), southeast of the I-26 bridge over the French Broad River, and approximately 0.5- to 1-mile new location roadway for a new industrial park in Buncombe County, NC. (See Project Location Map.)

General Project Need: *(Preliminary)* The proposed project is needed to address the lack of network connectivity between NC 191 and Interstate 26 in southern Buncombe County to accommodate current and planned growth.

Metropolitan / Rural Planning Organization: French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization

NEPA/404 Merger Candidate?: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ To Be Determined

Feasibility Studies Completed?: ☐ Yes ☒ No Date of Studies: In process

<u>Project Schedule:</u>	<u>Type of Document:</u>	<u>Dates:</u>
Anticipated Environmental Document(s):	CE	FY 2022
Right of Way Authorization Date:		FY 2022
Let Date:		FY 2023

<u>Cost Estimate:</u>	<u>Construction:</u>	<u>Right of Way:</u>	<u>Total Cost:</u>
TIP Estimate:			
Current Estimate:	\$16–28M	\$100k–1.2M	\$19–35M

**Design Criteria:**Length of Project:

Interchange – Approximately ½-mile Tie-in – Approximately ½-mile
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Right of Way:

Existing:

Interchange – Varies, 270–830 ft on I-26 Tie-in – Not applicable
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Proposed:

Interchange – To be determined Tie-in – To be determined
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Type of Access Control:

Existing:

Interchange – Not applicable Tie-in – Not applicable
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Proposed:

Interchange – Full control of access (interstate) Tie-in – No control
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Roadway Typical Section:

Existing:

Interchange – Not applicable Tie-in – Not applicable
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Proposed:

Interchange – 1-2 lane Tie-in – 2 lane
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Speed:

Existing Posted Speed:

Interchange – Not applicable (60 mph on I-26) Tie-in – Not applicable
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Proposed Design Speed:

Interchange – Not applicable (70 mph on I-26) Tie-in – 40 mph
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Bridge/ Culvert Inventory:

Buncombe Bridge Nos. 100214 (I-26 EBL) and 100211 (I-26 WBL) over French Broad River; Buncombe Bridge No. 100205 (Blue Ridge Parkway over I-26)
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Functional Classification:

Interstate
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Strategic Transportation Corridor Information:

Corridor C (I-26/US 23)
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CTP/Thoroughfare Plan Designation (Facility Type):

N/A
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Air Quality Status:☐

Non-attainment

☐

Maintenance

☒

Attainment

Horizon Completion Year (Long Range Trans. Plan):

N/A
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Typical Section in Compliance with Conformity Determination?☒

Yes

☐

No

<u>Traffic (AADT):</u>	Year	Range of Traffic*	
Current Year:	2021	86,000	% TTST: 4
Design Year (No Build):	2040	107,000	% Dual: 11
Design Year (Build):	2040	129,000	% DHV: 7

\* Source: I-4700/I-4400 Traffic Analysis/Forecast and site daily trip generation.

NOTE: A new forecast is being prepared for this project.

Design Standards Applicable: ☒ AASHTO ☐ 3R

Railroad Involvement:

Utility Involvement:

### Other STIP Projects in the Area (within 3 miles)

STIP Project No.	Description	Schedule (Fiscal Year)
I-4700*	I-26. NC280 (Exit 40) to I-40 at Asheville. Add additional lanes.	<i>Under Construction</i>
I-5504	I-26. NC 191 (Brevard Road). Upgrade interchange.	<i>Under Construction</i>
U-2801A	US 25A (Sweeten Creek Road). US 25 (Hendersonville Road) to SR 3081 (Rock Hill Road). Widen roadway.	RW 2024 CST 2027
U-3403B*	NC 191 (Brevard Road). SR 3498 (Ledbetter Road) to north of Blue Ridge Parkway. Widen to multi-lanes.	RW 2029 CST Post Year
U-5834	SR 3116 (Mills Gap Road). US 25 (Hendersonville Road) to SR 3157 (Weston Road). Upgrade existing roadway.	<i>RW In progress</i> CST 2024
U-6047	SR 112 (Sardis Road/Sandhill Road). NC 191 (Brevard Road) to US 19/23 (Smokey Park Highway). Widen roadway.	RW 2025 CST 2028
HO-0002	I-40 in Asheville to I-440 in Wilmington. Implement Broadband, ITS, and Resiliency Improvements	<i>Unknown</i>
HO-0002A	I-40 in Asheville to I-77 at I-485 (South) in Charlotte. Install Broadband.	<i>Unknown</i>

Source: North Carolina Department of Transportation, 2020-2029 Current State Transportation Improvement Program (January 2021)

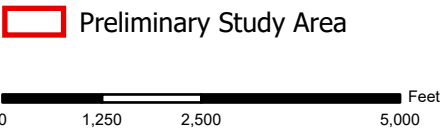
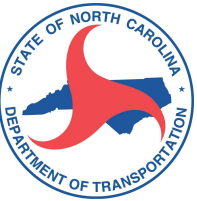
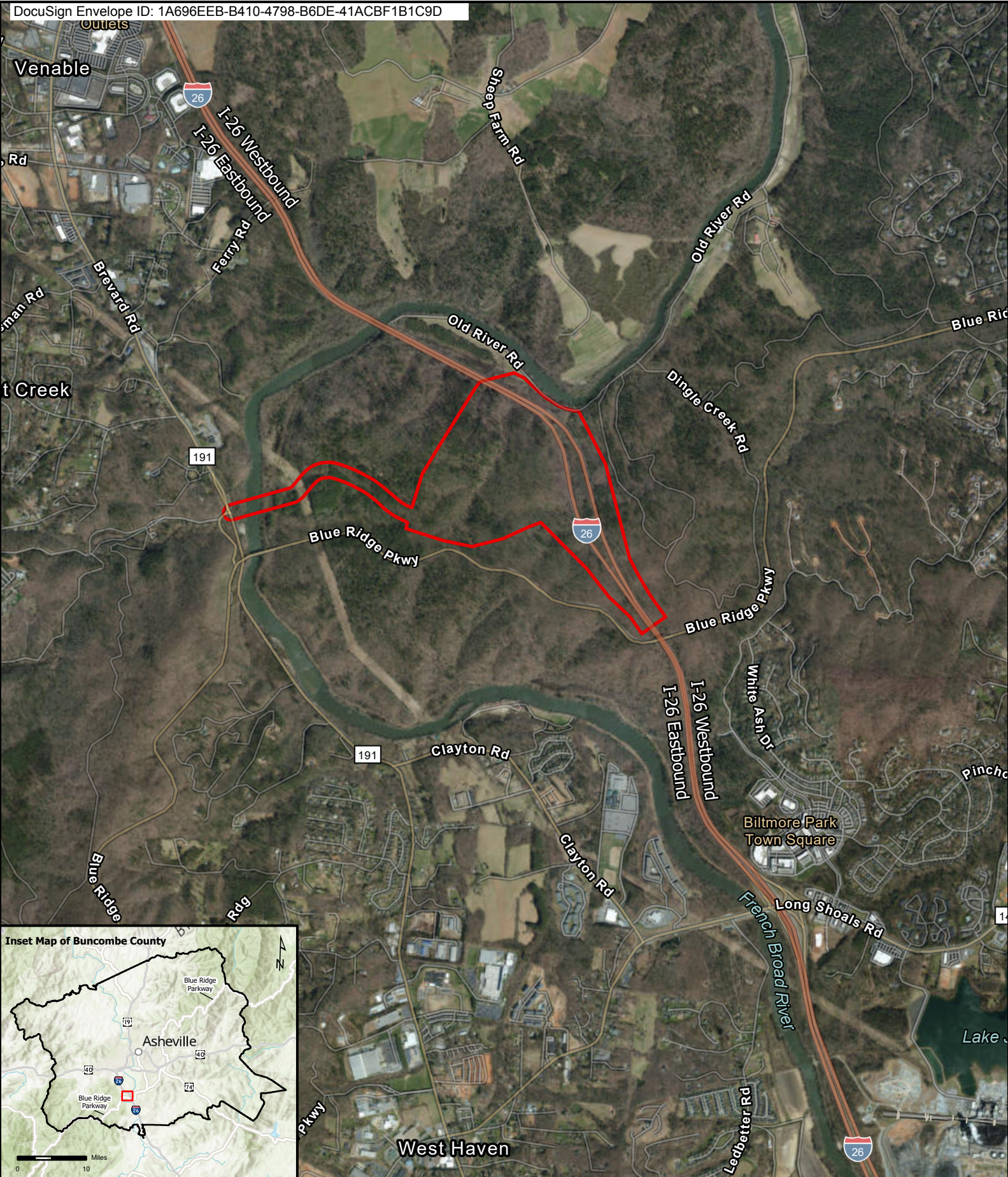
\*Project intersects HE-0001 Preliminary Study Area

### Preliminary Study Area Resources Inventory Table

Resource/Affected Environment & Measure		Applicability/ Resources in Study Area
General Project Information		
Length of project (approximate in miles)	Approximately 1 Mile	
Crossing or Intersecting roadways (#)	I-26	
Cultural Resources		
NRHP (and eligible sites, districts, other properties) (#)	2 – Biltmore Estate (BN1835) (NHL); Blue Ridge Parkway (NC001) (NRHP Eligible)	
Human Environment		
Community Resources (#)	None	
Public Parks/Section 4(f) Properties (#)	2 - Blue Ridge Parkway (NPS); Biltmore Estate (NPS)	
Greenways, Game Lands, Land and Water Conservation Fund Properties, Bicycle Routes, etc. (#)	None	
Residential Properties (# potentially affected)	None	
Business Properties (# potentially affected)	None	
High % Special Populations (Low-income, Minority)	No	
Natural Environment*		
Streams (# of stream crossings) Floodplain crossing	11 streams (2–4 potential crossings) + French Broad River - 7 streams (I-4700 Study Area) - 4 other streams (ATLAS) French Broad River FEMA Floodplain present, no crossing	
Wetlands (est. acres)	Approximately 11 acres - Approx. 10 acres (I-4700 Study Area) - Approx. 1 acre (ATLAS; NWI)	
Ponds (est. acres connected to jurisdictional waters)	None identified.	
Critical Water Supply Watersheds	No	
Riparian Buffer Rules apply	No	
Outstanding Resource Waters / High Quality Resource	No	
303(d) Listed Streams	No	
Identified Critical Habitat/ESA Spp. (# known)	No critical habitat/There are 8 Threatened, 1 Threatened/Similar in Appearance, and 3 Endangered Species in Study Area	
Physical Environment		
Hazardous Materials (# suspected/known sites)	None	
Utilities	TBD	
Active agriculture (Voluntary Agricultural District)	No VADs or EVADs listed.	
FEMA Buyout Properties	None	

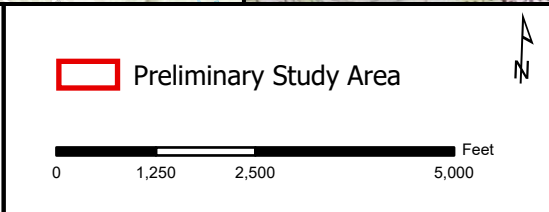
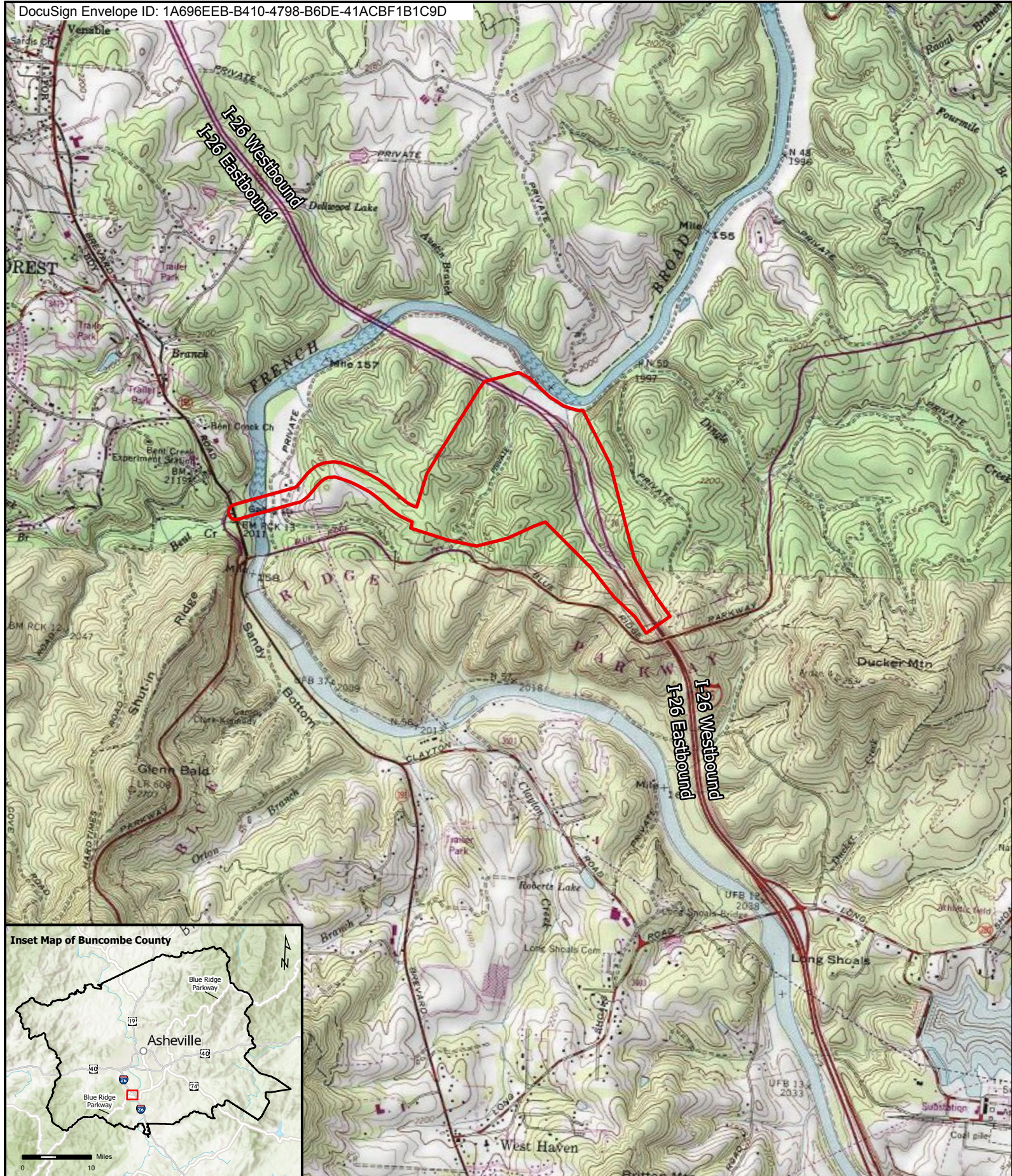
NOTES: This table is intended to be used in conjunction with the Environmental Features Map and the USGS Map. \* Stream and wetland features were previously field collected as part of the NCDOT I-4700 project; GIS (ATLAS) data was used for the remainder of the Preliminary Study Area. # Formal Section 7 consultations for I-4700/I-4400 (USFWS [Biological Opinion](#) [BO], February 22, 2019) concurred with NCDOT's Biological Assessment (August 20, 2018) and concluded that all species but two would not be affected or not likely to be adversely affected by the I-26 widening project. The BO issued by the USFWS includes conservation measures associated with the federally endangered Appalachian elktoe (*Alasmidonta raveneliana*) and gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*).





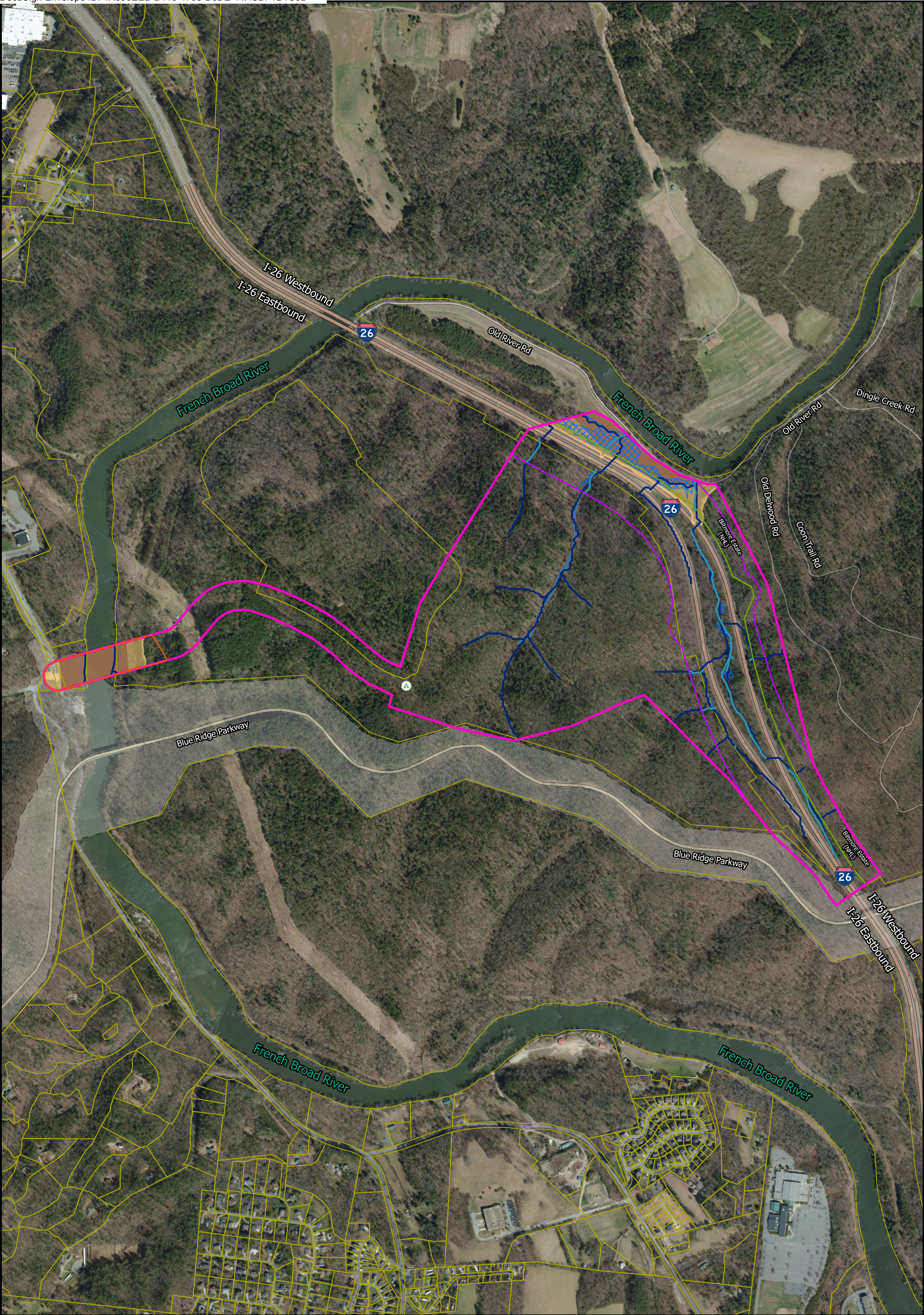
Vicinity Map  
NCDOT STIP HE-0001  
Proposed I-26 Interchange





Vicinity Map  
 NCDOT STIP HE-0001  
 Proposed I-26 Interchange  
 Gannett Fleming  
 Excellence Delivered As Promised  
 Map Created 5/11/2021





<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Preliminary Study Area</li><li>Stream (I-4700/I-4400 WET)</li><li>Streams (ATLAS)</li><li>Portion of I-4700 Study Area</li><li>SHPO Ineligible Resource</li><li>Wetland (I-4700/I-4400 WET)</li><li>Wetland (ATLAS)</li><li>U-3403B Study Area</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Biltmore Estate NHL</li><li>Buncombe County Parcels</li><li>National Park - Blue Ridge Parkway</li></ul> <p><b>Flood Zone</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>100 Year Flood Zone</li><li>500 Year Flood Zone</li><li>FEMA Floodway</li></ul>	<p>Study Area is within Bent Creek-French Broad River Trout Watershed.</p> <p>Data Sources: NCDOT, ATLAS, Buncombe County GIS.</p>	<div><p>N</p></div> <div><p>Environmental Features Map</p><p>NCDOT STIP HE-0001</p><p>Proposed I-26 Interchange</p><p>Buncombe County, North Carolina</p></div> <div><p>0 250 500 1,000 US Feet</p></div> <div><p>Created May 11, 2021</p></div>
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